



The President's Daily Brief

16 June 1970

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Events in Cambodia are discussed on *Page 1*.

Jordan remains relatively quiet except for sporadic shooting in settlements near Amman. (*Page 2*)

The European Allied defense ministers are looking into ways increased financial support could be provided for US forces in Europe. (*Page 3*)

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Movement of Enemy Units

- ← Movement (30 April - 3 June)
- ← Movement (4 - 15 June)
- Communist base area



98864 6-70 CIA

- Government-controlled location
- Communist-controlled location

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CAMBODIA

Yesterday, for the first time, an enemy force attacked the capital of Kompong Chhnang Province. Communist activity in Kompong Chhnang has increased substantially recently, and an assault on the capital has been expected by local government forces. On 14 June, the Communists cut Route 5, the main road in the province, which was also the only remaining road linking Phnom Penh with the Thai border.

The situation in Kompong Speu remains unclear. About 4,000 South Vietnamese troops, backed by heavy artillery support, are still trying to drive tenacious enemy forces out of the center of the city.

No new fighting was reported in Siem Reap, but a government spokesman claimed that the Communists have mined the approaches to the main temple at Angkor Wat, and have dug in and established command and observation posts in the ruins.

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The Communists are continuing their steady pressure on the government's garrisons in Labansiek and Bokheo in Ratanakiri Province. Phnom Penh remains optimistic, however, that its forces in Ratanakiri can hold out as long as South Vietnamese air support continues.

Most Communist main force infantry regiments in the Cambodia - South Vietnam border region continue to evade allied sweep operations; few major moves have been noted since early in June. The most significant was the recent northwestward shift of the North Vietnamese 95C Regiment from its border base camp to join up with the rest of the 9th Division, concentrated to the south of Kompong Cham. In addition, an element of the North Vietnamese 1st Division Headquarters moved some 25 miles to the northwest where it is probably controlling the North Vietnamese 101D Regiment around Kompong Speu.

The task force set up by the Djakarta conference to develop support for reactivating the International Control Commission and convening a broadly based conference on Indochina visited the United Nations last week. The next stop is Moscow, where the delegation is scheduled to talk with Gromyko on 17 June.

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JORDAN

The country remains relatively quiet except for a few exchanges of firing in settlements near Amman last night. There were no reports of gunfire in the capital itself for the first day in a week and activity is returning to normal with repair and cleaning up under way. Scattered incidents took place over the weekend, and they are now being investigated by joint government-fedayeen committees set up for the purpose.

Some of the local employees of the US Embassy have reported that fedayeen representatives are questioning them about their fellow workers. The employees are understandably nervous about such incidents, although only one instance of mistreatment has been reported.

Negotiations are said to be still going on between the regime and the fedayeen, but there is no indication whether any settlement will emerge that deals with the major issues.

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NOTE

NATO: The European Allied defense ministers--the so-called Eurogroup--have agreed to look for new ways to ease the cost of US forces in Europe in order to forestall or limit possible US troop cutbacks. They decided to examine how, through better allocation of defense expenditures, increased financial support for the US presence could be provided. On the initiative of West German Defense Minister Schmidt, the group agreed to explore the possibility of taking over part or all of the US portion of NATO's infrastructure expenditures. British Defense Minister Healey suggested that the Europeans could be more helpful with the local costs of US forces.

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